MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honourable Garde Gardom, QC
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia

May it Please Your Honour:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the annual report of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs of the Province of British Columbia for the period of April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.

Honourable Dale Lovick
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

The Honourable Dale Lovick
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia

Minister:

I have the pleasure to submit the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs Annual Report 1998/99.

Philip Steenkamp
Deputy Minister

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement 1

Employment Equity 2

Organization Chart 3

Communications Branch 4

Negotiations Division 7

Negotiations Support Division 11

Management Services Division 16

Expenditures 18

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is to work with First Nations, the federal government, other provincial ministries and all British Columbians to help build a society in which:

- relationships between aboriginal peoples and all British Columbians are based on equality and respect;
- aboriginal people can fulfil their aspirations for self-determining and self-sustaining communities; and,
- all British Columbians enjoy the social and economic benefits of cooperation and certainty.

Employment Equity

The ministry is committed to developing a workforce that reflects the diversity of the population of British Columbia. Achievements during 1998/99 include:

- Produced an Employment Equity Action Plan of initiatives to assist in achieving a diverse workforce, and actively monitored the plan's implementation
- Increased overall ministry representation of employment equity targeted groups by hiring 54 per cent of new regular and auxiliary employees from these groups
- Organized aboriginal cultural awareness sessions attended by ministry employees
- Conducted a workforce profile survey to assist in monitoring the representation of employment equity groups.

ORGANIZATION CHART

COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Raise British Columbians' awareness and understanding of treaty negotiations	• Worked with British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC), First Nations Summit and Federal Treaty Negotiation Office to carry out province-wide public education programs • Released a report outlining the financial and economic benefits of treaty settlements which was produced for the ministry by management consultants Grant Thornton • Staffed toll-free telephone line to answer public inquiries on a wide range of topics, including the Nisga'a Final Agreement • Produced and distributed 36 news releases • Published 1999 Guide to Aboriginal Organizations and Services • Continued a community outreach program in Prince George for distribution of information on regional treaty negotiations • Updated ministry web site on an ongoing basis
Inform British Columbians about the Nisga'a Final Agreement	• Conducted ongoing public information activities, including news conferences, events, and print and broadcast advertising • Responded to more than 18,000 calls related to the Nisga'a Final Agreement on the ministry toll-free information line • Organized and held more than 300 meetings to discuss the Nisga'a Final Agreement with community groups • Printed and distributed more than 40,000 copies of the Nisga'a Final Agreement and 60,000 copies of the Nisga'a Final Agreement in Brief • Produced fact sheets on topics outlined in the Nisga'a Final Agreement • Arranged production of a Nisga'a Final Agreement video which was screened on Knowledge Network, posted on the Internet and distributed to public libraries, organizations and individuals

- Released Nisga'a fisheries and finance side agreements (Harvest Agreement, Own Source Revenue Agreement, Fiscal Financing Agreement and Taxation Agreement)
- Posted Nisga'a information on the ministry web site, which was visited more than 260,000 times

Provide regional and local public information for 42 treaty tables, working in conjunction with the federal government and First Nations

- Developed tripartite public information plans with federal government and First Nation representatives for all active treaty tables
- Advertised main table sessions in local newspapers and through media notices and pamphlets
- Informed local media of progress in negotiations and facilitated media relations with negotiators
- Worked with community organizations, First Nations and the federal government to conduct public meetings
- Prepared and distributed pamphlets and newspaper inserts
- Coordinated event planning, news releases, media relations and other communications tools to mark milestones in the treaty process
- Planned and executed ceremonies and media coverage for the signing of the Carcross/Tagish Framework Agreement, the Kwakuitl Laich-Kwil-Tach Framework Agreement and a transboundary agreement between the Kwakuitl Laich-Kwil-Tach Council of Chiefs and the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
- Announced the resumption of negotiations with the Sechelt Indian Band, the Sechelt Land and Cash Offer and the Sechelt Draft Agreement-in-Principle, through media relations, and distribution and Internet posting of documents

Work closely with other government ministries on communications issues and initiatives of mutual concern and undertake communications initiatives for the ministry and the minister's speaking engagements

- Coordinated communications response to cross-ministry issues
- Prepared speaking notes and arranged briefings, media interviews and speaking engagements for the minister and deputy minister
- Provided communications support to minister's tour of the province to speak to local governments, media, First Nations and community groups

Publicize and provide public information on treaty negotiations across the province	• Communicated progress at treaty tables through public meetings, published material, newspaper articles, special events, local media interviews and the ministry web site
Provide communications leadership and support for non-treaty and aboriginal relations issues	• Continued support to the Aboriginal Relations Branch for communications related to interim measures, dispute resolution and negotiations outside the treaty process • Announced an agreement between the province and the McLeod Lake Indian Band to negotiate settlement of the band's claim to land and benefits under Treaty No. 8 • Provided communications support to the minister at conferences and events related to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, off-reserve self-government and the Delgamuukw decision • Coordinated media release and events listing for celebration of National Aboriginal Day in B.C.

NEGOTIATIONS DIVISION

ABORIGINAL RELATIONS BRANCH

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Administer the First Citizens' Fund, and the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program	• Facilitated 127 loans totalling $4.3 million through the Business Loan Program • Provided 139 student bursaries totalling $155,327 to aboriginal students attending post-secondary institutions • Provided 27 elders' organizations with assistance totalling $25,000 to attend cultural or educational gatherings • Assisted friendship centres by distributing funding of $690,000 to program directors in 23 centres as well as $85,000 to the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres • Provided $700,000 to the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program for the preservation and enhancement of aboriginal languages in B.C.
Reach agreement on issues between the Province and First Nations	• Negotiated the Gitxsan Reconciliation Agreement • Re-negotiated the Wet'suwet'en Bilateral Accord of Recognition and Respect • Continued negotiations of the Nazko Cut-off Claim • Continued negotiations of the Metlakatla - Lax Kw'alaams Cut-Off Claim
Implement existing agreements with First Nations	• Continued to implement Clayoquot Sound Scientific Panel recommendations, including establishing a planning committee in Clayoquot Sound (with participation by the province and Clayoquot Sound Central Region Board) • Continued implementation of existing agreements (e.g. Clayoquot Sound Interim Measures Extension Agreement)
Management of other negotiated agreements	• Managed the specific/cut-off claims process, including evaluation of appropriate provincial role in graveyard alienation specific claims

	• Developed draft report as component of Tseycum Heritage Working Group interim measures negotiations
Provide inter-ministry and inter-governmental coordination in the negotiation of arrangements with Metis and off-reserve aboriginal peoples	• Developed a work plan and budget to facilitate tripartite negotiations with the Metis and encouraged inter-agency approach to improving relationships and service delivery • Developed a work plan and budget to facilitate tripartite negotiations with off-reserve aboriginal organizations and encouraged inter-agency approach to improving relationships and service delivery • Participated on the Downtown East Side/Urban Development Agreement steering committee • Participated on the Vancouver Aboriginal Justice Diversion Project steering committee • Participated on the First Nations House of Learning steering committee

TREATY NEGOTIATION TEAMS

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Continue negotiations with Nisga'a Tribal Council and Canada toward reaching a Final Agreement	• Completed negotiations and initialled a Final Agreement with the Nisga'a Tribal Council and Canada • Introduced Nisga'a Final Agreement into B.C. Legislative Assembly for debate
Work toward treaties with First Nations and Canada following the six-stage British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) process	• Negotiated with Canada and First Nations at 42 treaty tables across the province • Initialled Framework Agreement with one First Nation • Signed two Framework Agreements under the BCTC process and one transboundary agreement

Seek advice from regional and local advisory committees and Treaty Advisory Committees (TACs), which represent the interests of third parties and local governments	• Consulted with 50 Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) dedicated to treaty negotiations across the province • Consulted regularly with local government TACs in 14 regions and facilitated representation by those committees on provincial caucuses and negotiating teams • Continued evaluating provincial and regional advisory committee processes with a view to increasing effectiveness and improving information exchange as the parties enter new stages of negotiation • Continued work with individual local governments, industry groups and other stakeholders to identify and clarify local interests in treaty negotiations • Promoted further opportunities for direct dialogue between stakeholders and First Nations • Continued support to the Aboriginal Relations Branch, as needed, for consultation processes related to interim measures, dispute resolution and other negotiations outside the BCTC process
Northwest Coast Team	• Continued Agreement-in-Principle negotiations with Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs, Haisla Nation, Heiltsuk Band Council and Tsimshian Tribal Council • Signed bilateral accords of reconciliation with the Hereditary Chiefs of the Gitxsan and the Hereditary Chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en • Conducted bilateral treaty negotiations with the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en
BC South Team	• Presented a land and cash offer to Sechelt and concluded Agreement-in-Principle negotiations • Signed Openness Protocol and Procedures Agreement with Katzie and declared the treaty table ready for Framework Agreement negotiations • Initialled a Framework Agreement with the Musqueam First Nation

- Negotiated toward an Agreement-in-Principle with In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua, Cariboo Tribal Council, Esketemc, Yale, Tsawwassen and Tsleil Waututh First Nations
- Initialled seven draft Agreement-in-Principle chapters with In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua

Vancouver Island Team

- Continued Agreement-in-Principle negotiations with the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, Te'Mexw Treaty Association, and the Homalco, Klahoose, Sliammon and Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) First Nations
- Signed a Framework Agreement and started Agreement-in-Principle negotiations with the Kwakiutl Laich-kwil-tach Nations Treaty Society
- Continued Framework Agreement negotiations with the Winalagalis
- Prepared comprehensive proposal for an Agreement-in-Principle with the Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations
- Carried out negotiations with the Treaty Negotiations Alliance respecting treaty mandates

North Interior Team

- Signed a Framework Agreement with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation
- Continued negotiations toward an Agreement-in-Principle with Ktunaxa Kinbasket, the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Yekooche, Kaska Dena and Westbank
- Responded to Tsay Keh Dene's comprehensive treaty proposal by accelerating treaty negotiations with a view to reaching Agreement-in-Principle in summer 2000
- Signed a Letter of Understanding with the Northern Nations Summit to create Northern Wildlife Policy Committee
- Increased the pace of negotiations with Lheidli T'enneh with a view to reaching Agreement-in-Principle in spring 2000
- Taku River Tlingit joined the transboundary negotiations (Champagne and Ashihik, Carcross/Tagish, Teslin Tlingit) to create the Northern Regional Negotiation Table

NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION

IMPLEMENTATION BRANCH

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Provide ongoing advice on treaty issues to provincial negotiators	• Provided expertise on eligibility and enrolment, ratification, implementation, dispute resolution and amendment • Reviewed policy documents, draft chapters and other materials
Support the Nisga'a Final Agreement negotiations	• Negotiated elements of the Nisga'a Final Agreement related to implementation, eligibility and enrolment, and ratification • Monitored implementation of the ratification and eligibility and enrolment provisions of the Nisga'a Final Agreement • Led the Provincial Team in tripartite negotiations related to the French translation of the Nisga'a Final Agreement
Manage preparation of provincial settlement legislation	• Managed preparation of the Nisga'a Final Agreement Act
Implement the Nisga' Final Agreement	• Developed a framework for provincial ministries responsible for implementing treaty obligations • Managed implementation of the Nisga'a Final Agreement to ensure the province is prepared to fulfil treaty obligations
Support Sechelt Final Agreement negotiations	• Provided expertise to the provincial negotiating team on eligibility and enrolment, ratification, implementation, dispute resolution and amendment

INFORMATION PROVISION BRANCH

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Provide ongoing land and resource information to provincial negotiation teams and enable fulfillment of the province's Delgamuukw obligations	• Responded to provincial negotiators' information requirements to address specific negotiation issues at 42 treaty tables by: - integrating land and resource data from external sources, including government agencies, industry, Crown corporations and interest groups; - providing base maps, digital data, charts, analysis and reports to treaty tables; - continuing regional mapping of lands and resources to support treaty tables
Co-ordinate information activities, including land encumbrance transfer activities, related to treaty closing procedures	• Managed the delivery of the Nisga'a Final Agreement closing procedures, as a component of implementation, to ensure readiness on the treaty's effective date
Manage delivery of the provincial Common Land Information Base (CLIB)	• Funded 42 government-wide projects totalling $3.5 million for land and resource information collection and analysis to support First Nations treaty and pre-treaty negotiations • Continued to provide land and resource information to support treaty negotiation tables • Continued to improve government inventories of natural and cultural heritage resources and accessibility of information between ministries
Provide information and analysis support for provincial/federal cost-sharing agreements	• Contributed information and technical support for negotiation of four provincial/federal cost-sharing agreements
Develop information delivery systems to enhance First Nation and third party participation in the treaty process	• In cooperation with federal officials, held Opportunities for Information Sharing, an innovative First Nations information workshop

PROVINCIAL TEAM

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Resolve treaty process issues with the British Columbia Treaty Commission, the First Nations Summit and the federal government	• Participated in and provided cost-sharing and treaty process briefing materials and analysis support for the minister for two principals' meetings • Participated in and provided cost-sharing and treaty process briefing materials and analysis support for tripartite discussions regarding implications of Delgamuukw decision on the treaty process • Participated in and provided cost-sharing and treaty process briefing materials and analysis support for a tripartite group formed to explore ways to accelerate treaty negotiations • Negotiated with Canada a set of principles for cost sharing treaty-related measures at individual treaty tables
Reach agreement with Canada on procedures for implementing the 1993 Cost-Sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	• Negotiated procedures with Canada regarding determination of the MOU Index, calculation of federal and provincial cash shares and treatment of adjustment funds • Negotiated with Canada revisions to existing procedures on the determination of provincial forest land area and volume, harvest rate reductions and forest revenue rates • Reached agreement with Canada on sharing implementation costs to fulfill obligations set out in a treaty
Engage with Canada on Phase I of self-government cost-sharing arrangements contemplated in 1993 Cost-Sharing MOU	• Entered into issue exploration and data exchange with Canada in preparation for cost-sharing negotiations regarding aboriginal self-government programs and services • Continued, in cooperation with Canada, to update the First Nations Summit and the Treaty Negotiations Advisory Committee on negotiations to implement the 1993 Cost-Sharing MOU and negotiations on self-government cost-sharing

Reach bilateral cost-sharing agreements at individual treaty negotiation tables	• Completed the necessary cost-sharing calculations and agreements to enable Canada and British Columbia to table a treaty settlement offer with the Sechelt First Nation • Provided support on cost-sharing issues to provincial negotiators at the Nisga'a treaty table in preparation for the signing of the Nisga'a Final Agreement • Substantially completed representative hectare analysis and other cost-sharing calculations and agreements needed for land and cash offers at two treaty tables • Completed district lot analyses of Crown lands subject to urban influence at three treaty tables • With Canada, presented overall vision summary at three treaty tables • Liaised with provincial negotiators regarding progress at individual treaty tables and provided general cost-sharing advice on various topics

MANDATES BRANCH

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Passage of Settlement Legislation to approve the Nisga'a Final Agreement	• Provided support for legislative debates on Bill 51, the Nisga'a Final Agreement Act
Develop specific and province-wide treaty mandates to guide provincial negotiators during ongoing treaty negotiations	• Developed financial mandates for 15 individual treaty negotiation tables • Reviewed draft governance, lands and resources and fiscal Agreement-in-Principle chapters at several treaty tables • Provided guidance to negotiators on specific issues arising at treaty tables • Refined treaty mandates on governance, lands and resources and fiscal issues for individual treaty tables • Provided direction to treaty negotiation tables on aboriginal self-government structures and authorities • Led analysis and restructuring of the process for developing financial mandates for individual treaty tables

Coordinate with B.C. ministries and other levels of government on issues of mutual concern	• Developed protocol agreement between the Province and the Union of B.C. Municipalities on local government and First Nations relationships, and related treaty issues • Provided advice to provincial line ministries on initiatives including: - aboriginal focused working group under the Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Prostitution and Sexually Exploited Youth - Fish Protection Act - Salmon Acquaculture - inter-ministry committee on forest certification standards • Provided advice on federal initiatives of importance to B.C. including off-reserve/Metis study, Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, First Nations Land Management Act, federal water strategy, Senate Committee on Aboriginal Governance and the National Children's Agenda
Co-manage, with federal staff, the third party Treaty Negotiations Advisory Committee (TNAC)	• Worked with TNAC to review and provide advice on policy options regarding governance arrangements, third party compensation, wildlife management and the fisheries sector • Promoted dialogue between stakeholders as represented by TNAC and First Nations
Work with federal government, provinces and territories, and national aboriginal organizations on issues of common interest	• Within the context of the federal, provincial, territorial meeting of ministers responsible for aboriginal affairs: - led development of a national Aboriginal Youth Strategy in co-operation with five national aboriginal organizations - participated in the creation of a national process for discussing and addressing issues of concern to aboriginal people, with a defined role for the national aboriginal organizations • With other western Canadian provinces, undertook research on approaches taken in other jurisdictions regarding self-government, lands and resources and fiscal issues

MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Provide financial and administrative services to the ministry in a professional, effective, timely, accurate and efficient manner	• Managed finances effectively and efficiently, providing accounting services, financial planning and analysis to ministry executive and staff • Completed a reorganization of headquarters to accommodate new resources and consolidate divisions • Successfully introduced new financial processes to increase efficiency, including the electronic travel voucher and templates for commonly-used forms • Provided cost-effective corporate services for facilities, telecommunications and other administrative requirements of the ministry

HUMAN RESOURCES BRANCH

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Provide a full range of efficient and effective payroll and personnel support services to the ministry	• Provided services to ministry staff in all personnel and payroll areas, including staffing, classification, organizational development, labour relations, employment equity, occupational health and safety, training, pay and benefits • Completed an extensive program of recruitment to ministry positions
Provide full payroll and personnel services to the Ministry of Women's Equality	• Completed the merger of services for the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and the Ministry of Women's Equality

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT BRANCH

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Information Systems Provide services to the ministry in all areas of information technology including its application to the business requirements of the ministry, supporting the desktop and network computer services and administering the ministry corporate data resources	• Continued development of projects identified in the ministry's Information Resource Management Plan • Completed implementation of the corporate correspondence tracking system • Developed a public enquiry database to monitor and respond to calls to the ministry's toll-free information line • Developed a data warehouse for Geographic Information Systems data • Continued work on a corporate contact management system • Completed Year 2000 compliance for the ministry's business systems • Upgraded the ministry's technical infrastructure to Windows NT 4.0 • Provided workstations, network connections and support for the Nisga'a Treaty Implementation Project
Provide full information system services to the Ministry of Women's Equality	• Completed the merger of the Information Systems Branches of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and the Ministry of Women's Equality
FOI/Records Management Provide services to the ministry in the areas of records management and administration of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOI)	• Responded to 33 requests under the Act • Responded to 42 requests for advice from other ministries and organizations responding to FOI requests involving First Nations • Provided advice and assistance to the ministry in the implementation of government-wide standard records classification systems • Provided access to library materials for ministry employees • Retrieved records relating to court cases involving First Nations
Provide full records management and FOI services to the Ministry of Women's Equality.	• Delivered records management and FOI services to the Ministry of Women's Equality

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

1998/99 Branch Expenditures ($000s)

Vote		Budget	Actual	Under Spent
9	Minister's Office	334	331	3
10	Ministry Operations:			
	Support to Negotiations	8,728	8,516	212
	Management Services Division	3,629	3,629	-
	Treaty Negotiations	13,630	13,398	232
	Treaty Settlement & Implementation	2,200	-	2,200
Special Account				
	First Citizens' Fund	2,900	2,812	88
	Total Ministry	**31,421**	**28,686**	**2,735**

The budget for Treaty Settlement and Implementation was not spent because the Nisga'a Final Agreement was not fully ratified by all three parties in fiscal year 1998/99.

Expenditures By Type